

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Attached is a report on Soviet troops and supply installations in the Belorussian Military District.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Soviet Troops in the Belorussian MD

<u>Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Installation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Borisov (N54-13, E28-30)	January to December 1949.	Barracks installation of four-story barracks buildings, large huts, and a tent camp.	West of Novo Borisov, in a hilly, partially wooded area.	The billets were occupied by tank units, motorized infantry units, and AT units. Numerous T-34 and JS tanks, as well as SP guns, including ones of a new model, were observed on the terrain referred to as troop training grounds, which extended from Borisov as far as the area east of Minsk (N53-54, E27-33). Also, 76.2-mm AT guns and 120-mm mortars were observed. The new SP gun model had five large staggered bogie wheels and a flat nose. The gun was of more than 76.2 mm and had a muzzle brake, the barrel being supported by a slanting bipod, sustained by the nose. The superstructure of the SP gun was open on top and at the rear, an AA machine gun projecting from its central portion. Record firing prac- tices and field exercises of the tanks ridden by in- fantrymen were observed to be held regularly at the training grounds, both during the day and at night.	two divisions were located in the Borisov area.
	1948 to September 1949.	Barracks installation of three large four- story brick buildings, one tank repair shop,	West of Novo Borisov, in a partially wooded area.	All buildings seemed to be occupied to capacity by troops. Most troops wore black epaulets with tank insignia, some with	

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one barracks encampment, one large tent camp, set up in summer only, and an extensive troop training grounds adjoining the installation to the west.

two-digit numbers. [redacted] a tank regiment might be located in the brick buildings. High-ranking officers observed included one colonel, four lieutenant colonels, and about ten majors. The commissioned personnel included an unusually large number of junior officers. Every morning, from 50 to 60 officers, lieutenants, senior lieutenants, and captains, would go to the installation by truck. The unit was equipped with T-34 tanks; not more than 32 were observed at one time. Its component units were equipped with a great many Studebakers and ZIS trucks. Starting in the early morning hours, tanks in combat order would be observed in the terrain.

Minsk  
(N53-54,  
E27-33)

Late  
March  
1950.

Billets of huts covering about half the area of PW Camp No. 7168/11.

About four km south-east of the city, on the south side of the Minsk-Mogilev (N53-54, E30-21) road.

The billets were occupied by six to eight companies of young soldiers, who were recruits, judging by the type of training. The troops were not observed receiving weapon training.

Bereza  
Kartuska  
(N52-33,  
E24-59)

January  
to March  
1949.

Barracks installation of one red four-story building, about 200x30 meters; two red four-story buildings, about 100x15 meters; two tank repair shops; one motor vehicle repair shop, one tank storage

At the western exit of the town, between the Brest road and the road leading to the Bereza Kartuska railroad station.

a. Occupied by a tank unit of 700 to 800 men, [redacted] A major was observed to be the ranking officer. [redacted] however, there was an agreement

According to rumors the Polish 12th Arty Regt had been formerly stationed in the barracks installation.



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hall, about 150x15 meters;  
one kitchen building; one  
shed for oil barrels; and  
one tank storage yard.

that motor vehicles of the  
road construction firm going to  
Brest had to take soldiers to  
one of the barracks instal-  
lations located there.

b. Armored vehicles observed  
included ten to 12 tanks covered  
with canvas, which were stored  
in the storage area, and six or  
seven SP guns, four or five T-34  
tanks, and about ten T-43 (?)  
tanks, which were stored in the  
storage hall. The T-43 tank had  
track-supporting rollers and bogie  
wheels and mounted a gun of more  
than 100 mm with muzzle brake.  
All T-43 tanks carried extra  
fuel in two drums at the rear.  
The SP guns mounted barrels of  
about 150 mm.

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c. The motor pool included about  
30 ZIS trucks, 15 jeeps, four hoisting  
vehicles mounting cranes, six repair  
shop trucks, and two tank trucks.

d. A horizontal rectangle, divided  
into triangles and squares, with  
greyish-green background was observed  
on the right side of the nose of  
each tank and the right front  
fender of each truck.

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e. Tank destroying squads of five or six men, equipped with two AT rifles, were observed at practice on the terrain. The AT rifle was carried by one soldier and had a barrel about two meters long of about 30 mm, a forearm with rigger and a shoulder stock.

f. The fuel depot of the unit, which consisted of several dug-in tanks, was located about 400 meters north of the barracks installation near a former cloister.

Lida  
(N53-54,  
E25-18)

Prior to  
the spring  
of 1951.

1. Barracks installation of about ten brick buildings, several three-story officers' billets, one hospital and a tank storage yard with tents.

On the northwestern perimeter of the city, about two km northwest of the railroad station.

Prior to the spring of 1951, the installation was occupied by tank units equipped with heavy and medium tanks. The strength of the units was estimated at more than one regiment. A tank repair shop was located near the installation.

2. Barracks installation.

Not specified.

Another barracks installation was occupied by an infantry unit, whose strength was estimated at one regiment. The soldiers were recruits, who were assigned to other posts after receiving eight to ten weeks' training.

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Volkovysk  
(N53-10,  
E24-29)

June to  
November  
1947.

Barracks installation under construction.

About one km northwest of the city.

Buildings completed by November 1947 included one three-story barracks building, 30x18 meters, one three-story brick building, 30x20 meters, three three-story officers' billets, 15x8 meters, one hospital, four stables, and one kitchen. The building site for one more barracks building was laid out. In October and



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Moscow-  
Brest  
railroad  
line  
(N52-07,  
E23-42)

13 to 17  
April  
1950.

Observation of  
railroad ship-  
ments.

Brest  
area.

June and  
July  
1949.

1. Border forti-  
fications and  
billets.

a. Domachevo  
(N51-44, E23-32)-  
Przyborovo  
border sector.

November 1947, the headquarters and about 150 troops of a horse-drawn border guard unit were moved into the installation from a village located five or six km northwest of the city. The troops wore green epaulets with the number 86. The rest of the unit was to join them in November 1947. The soldiers had to work on the barracks construction.

During the [redacted] trip made [redacted] April 1950, about 30 30-car trains traveled past the [redacted] train stopping at small stations on the Moscow-Brest railroad line. The trains fairly constantly consisted of 10 to 15 cars loaded with one heavy tank each, five cars loaded with two AT guns with very long barrels each, and about 10 boxcars, whose doors were locked. The tanks and the AT guns were painted olive drab and seemed to be brand new. Each car loaded with a tank was ridden by several soldiers. At a railroad station located west of Brest, [redacted]

[redacted] there was a continuous flow of westbound Soviet trains loaded with tanks in April 1950.

While riding along and picking up timber on the eastern bank of the Bug River in June and July 1949, steel watchtowers, set up at intervals of about 150 meters and mounting searchlights and machine guns, were observed on several spots. Dogs guided by wires ran between the towers. Also, echeloned wire entanglements and patrols were observed.



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b. Kharsy  
(N51-39,E23-35).

Four well-camouflaged concrete pillboxes set up at intervals of about 50 meters were observed west of the town, almost directly on the eastern bank of the Bug River. Each pillbox had a large steel door at the rear and loopholes on either side. Laterally observed, a long gun barrel pointed westward projected beyond the front of each pillbox. The pillboxes were surrounded by wire entanglements. No infantry positions were observed. A barracks installation of two three-story brick buildings was located north, and one more installation of the same layout south, of the town. The sentries wore uniforms with red and blue pipings, respectively, along the collar patches, and blue caps with red bands. Turnpikes guarded by sentries to check the vehicular traffic were set up near the barracks installations.

About 1,500 meters  
northwest of  
Przyborovo.

The rear sides of four concrete pillboxes surrounded with barbed wire were observed in the bush near the river bank. No troops were seen around the pillboxes.

Cleaning weapons 2. Barracks instal-  
in the barracks lation in the former  
installation. citadel.

Between Brest  
and the Bug River.

In the summer of 1948, tanks and trucks were frequently observed in the citadel area. About 20 three-story barracks buildings located in the northern sector of the citadel were occupied by a tank unit. Several thousand German rifles and about 200 German Model 42 heavy machine

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1945 to  
June  
1949.

1. Barracks installation, about 1,000x800 meters, of three partially unstuccoed three-to-five-story brick buildings and three smaller brick structures; enclosed by a board fence topped with barbed wire and located in a slightly wooded area.

North of the main railroad station.

guns were stored in two rooms of the basement of the installation.

Occupied by a motorized unit, whose strength was estimated at one regiment. Some light 30 to 40-mm AT guns and 70 to 80 mm guns were observed in the barracks area. The unit was equipped with Studebaker and GAZ trucks.

2. Billets of three small buildings.

In the center of the city on a side-street off Red October Street.

The so-called Brest Transloading Headquarters, commanded by Colonel Artur. (fnu), was located in the buildings. Colonel Artur's adjutant was Major Vigand. (fnu), and his predecessor was Major General Klementov. (fnu), who was assigned to the Vladivostok post with some members of his headquarters and left on 28 May 1949, taking some machines with him. The 270th Technical Bn. was subordinate to the headquarters. Captain Simonov. (fnu) served as liaison officer. The battalion was located in three huts on the east side of the airfield situated north of the city. It was commanded by a lieutenant colonel. The battalion included a crane repair shop, headed by Captain Golstov. (fnu). Also, a labor battalion, located in three or four long excavated bunkers

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northeast of the citadel,  
was subordinate to the trans-  
loading headquarters. The  
officers of the labor battalion  
lived in three large multi-  
story apartment houses near the  
coal yard located north of  
the citadel.



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Soviet Supply Installations in the Belorussian MD

Borisov (N54-13, E28-30)	To April 1948.	1. Ordnance park, about 1,000x800 me- ters, enclosed by a barbed-wire fence.	West of Novo Borisov (N54-13, E28-32).	Several hundred AA guns of not less than 100 mm were observed in the park. Also 150 to 200 trucks were stored inside the fence in April 1948.
		2. Ammunition depot, about 300 meters square, of numerous excavated bunkers, whose roofs projected one to 1.5 meters from the ground, enclosed by a barbed- wire fence.	West of Novo Borisov.	Large shell baskets were stored between the bunkers. Trucks were frequently loaded with the baskets and un- loaded by soldiers in the depot.
Minsk (N53-54, E27-33)	Mid-1949 to late 1949.	Armory of several hmts located in a slightly wooded area equipped with target ranges and a railroad spur.	About six km south- east of the main railroad station on the south side of the Mogilev road, near a large auto- mobile factory.	About twice a month, eight to ten flatcars, loaded with rocket launchers or 70 to 80 mm AT guns, would be shunted into the area of the workshops, most of which were blocked to observation. Some days later, the cars, loaded with weapons again, would be shunted out of the area. The reports of rifles and guns were heard from the installation at all times. The sentries standing guard at the entrance wore crimson- bordered epaulets.
Gomel (N52-27, E31-00)	1945 to October 1947.	Supply depot of six wooden storehouses, supported by con- crete pillars and equipped with con- crete flooring, about 40x15 meters; enclosed by a double barbed- wire fence.	North of the airfield located on the north- ern perimeter of the city, on either side of the railroad line leading to the port.	Clothing and rations were frequently unloaded at the storehouses. The goods included flour, legumes, meat, and boxes Aircraft spare parts such as engines, wings, wheels, and landing gears were stored

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Bobruysk 1946 to  
(N53-09, April  
E29-14) 1949.

Ration supply depot, about 500x300 meters, of four wooden sheds, about 150 meters long, one single-story brick building of the same size and one smaller one; equipped with railroad spurs; enclosed by a wooden fence; and adjoining one double hut with workshops, one club house and one athletic field to the south.

In the southern sector of the city, between the airfield and the railroad station located near the large railroad bridge over the Berezhina River.

in the southern portion of the fenced-in area. The depot was guarded by soldiers wearing brown uniforms.

a. The installation was referred to as army ration supply depot and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Shilling. (fnu) up to July 1948. Lieutenant Colonel Shilling, who was promoted to the rank of colonel and transferred to Moscow, was succeeded by a major wearing red service color. The staff included Major Pesner (fnu), deputy commander, and Captain Arkhipov (fnu), head of the fat depot. The main ration supply office, to which the depot was subordinate, was moved to Minsk in the summer of 1948.

A somewhat smaller civilian ration supply depot, consisting of two huts and some wooden storehouses, adjoined the installation to the west.

b. The staff included about 10 officers, 25 to 30 Soviet civilians, and 60 PWs.

c. Flour, cereals, vegetables, fat, meat, canned food, and forage were stored in the depot. Flour and cereals were supplied from Germany, most of the meat from the vicinity.

d. The stock was short. Incoming shipments averaged five 18-ton cars per day and would be distributed again



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immediately. The rations were picked up by trucks of units located in Bobruysk, most of which belonged to the air force, and army units located in Ostpovichy (N53-18, E28-39), Rogachev (N53-04, E30-02), and Mogilev. In addition, shipments were dispatched by rail to Orsha (N54-30, E30-25) and Mozhir (N52-03, E29-15). Probably no shipments were made to Minsk, Pinsk (N52-07, E26-05), Baranovichy (N53-08, E26-00), Krichev, (N53-42, E31-43) and Vitebsk (N55-12, E30-10).

e. The installation was guarded by sentries at day and by patrols of a civilian 25-man force at night. Prior to 1947, the guard detail had consisted of military personnel. The fire brigade numbered one officer and 15 men and was equipped with a motorized fire engine.

Moscow-Brest railroad line.

mid-April 1950.

Tank depot.

About 180 km north-east of Brest (Bereza Kartuzka area?), in a wooded area near the railroad line.

In mid-April 1950, up to 30 tank depots, laid out at small intervals, were observed from the train on either side of the railroad line. From 20 to 30 long-barreled tanks were lined up in each depot. Some long-barreled heavy AT guns were stored around the depots. A limited number of soldiers were observed at the guns.

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Brest

July to  
November  
1950.

Tank depot in a  
large yard.

On the western peri-  
meter of the city,  
adjoining a hospital  
of three buildings  
to the south and the  
Brest-Mukhavets rail-  
road station to the  
north.

From 150 to 200 JS tanks  
were stored in the yard  
in groups. Each tank had six  
bogie wheels and three track-  
supporting rollers and  
mounted a revolving turret  
with an armored cupola, a  
gun projecting beyond the  
nose, an antenna on the  
left side of the turret and  
a fuel tank at the rear.  
Parties working on the tanks  
all day were observed in  
the yard daily. At night,  
double sentries would remain  
in the area of the depot.

The summer  
of 1948.

Fuel depot, about  
500x300 meters,  
including one ad-  
ministration hut  
and enclosed by  
a wire fence.

In the southeastern  
sector of the former  
citadel, on the  
southern bank of the  
Mukhavets River, some  
hundred meters up-  
stream of the junc-  
tion of the Mukhavets  
and the Bug Rivers.

In the summer of 1948,  
the depot was subordinate  
to the Brest town major, Adinsov  
(fnu). Construction was started  
in early 1948. Half-buried tanks,  
about 15 meters long, five or six  
meters in diameter, and covered  
with sand and sod, were scattered  
throughout the area of the depot.  
Some tanks were vertically in-  
stalled. The tanks were not  
observed to be connected.  
Some tanks seemed to have been already  
filled.

The in-  
stallation was guarded by soldiers  
wearing black epaulets and tank  
insignia.

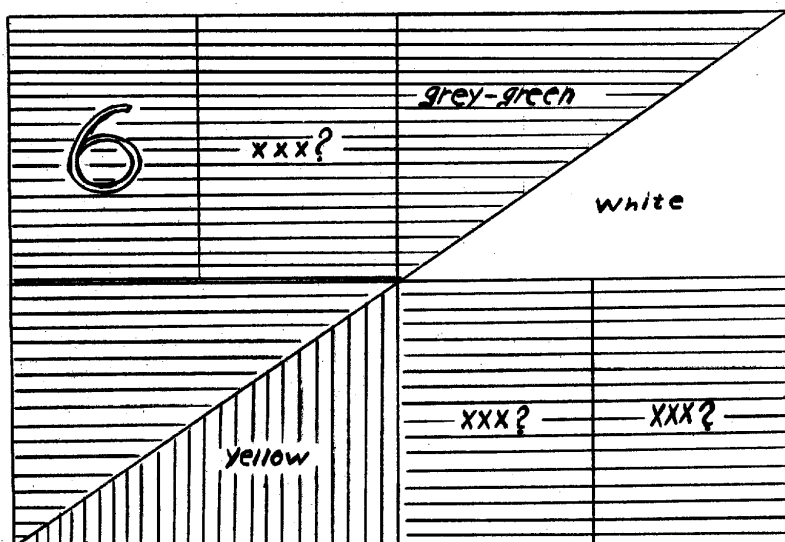


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Emblem observed painted on tank noses and truck fenders at Bereza Kartuska (see page 4, paragraph "d").



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